

## REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Why is it always in Alton!

On April 24 – 26, 2008 we had a 40+ acre brush fire that taxed the resources of our department and required Mutual Aid from many, many communities. We also used one helicopter from Joe Brigham Inc. as well as two Black Hawk helicopters from the National Guard. This fire was very expensive to extinguish with the total cost of approximately \$22,000.00, which the State reimbursed the Town 50%.

Then, here comes the Tornado; we as residents were very lucky that no one was injured. As a result of this storm many, many homes were affected and the electricity was out for quite sometime. The Emergency Shelter was opened for residents at the Prospect Mountain High School (PMHS). We hope everyone knows that the P.M.H.S. is the shelter location if you are ever in need. Then, again, it was the Ice Storm! Alton did not have much damage as a result of the storm, unlike in 1998, but electricity was a problem this time. Alton in general was out for approximately 46 hours due to the feeds coming into Town were dead – many homes were without electricity for many days. Once again the Emergency Shelter was opened at P.M.H.S. for three nights. I would like to thank the members of the P.M.H.S. for their prompt and efficient service during these emergencies.

The Fire Chief has been out since mid July and the Assistant Chief has been carrying on with the day to day operations of the Fire Department since then. We have hired many new members and currently have ten enrolled in a certified program for level 1 Firefighting. Feel free to come down and see what the Fire Department is all about.

We presently have six Student Intern Firefighter/EMT's involved in our program this year. These guys excel with whatever they do! I can't say enough about their commitments to the Fire service or the sacrifices these young men have made for our community. Our Interns continued to teach Risk Watch to the children in the Elementary School; Risk Watch is our home safety and injury prevention program. Our thanks go out to each of them.

Two department members have retired; Chief Alan M. Johnson with 17 years and Lieutenant Michael A. Caverly Sr. with 27 years of service to our department. We also would like to thank those that have left to pursue other interests as we welcome our new members aboard. We wish to thank the members of the Highway, Police, Water, and Parks & Recreation Department, the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen, and Town Hall Officials and employees for their continued help and assistance throughout the year.

Our goal for 2009 is to inspect every apartment in Town for smoke detector compliance. If you rent or own an apartment, please call the Central Station at 875-0222 so we can enter you into our data base, or update what we presently have for information, and set up a time that is convenient for you to inspect the property. Every business will be inspected as well, for life safety compliance.

Lastly, I wish to thank each member for your time and commitment to our community.

Respectfully,

Scott I. Williams  
Acting Fire Chief